

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RESPECTING THE FINE SERVICE OF THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, the amendment to cut 100 additional employees from the U.S. Government Printing Office, offered and accepted during debate last week on the Legislative Appropriations bill, was an impulsive and arbitrary maneuver with no focus whatsoever on the quality of services rendered by this public service agency.

The amendment was another example of legislating in haste with uncertain results, which failed to take into account the tremendous record of personnel reductions that has occurred at GPO. In the past 20 years, GPO has reduced the number of its employees by more than half, from 8,000 in 1976, to 3,800 today. Last year, the House voted for additional reductions and the Appropriations Committee recommended a cut of 50 full-time employees for fiscal year 1997.

This work force reduction was accomplished by efforts of not just Congress, but also the GPO leadership, to bring the agency into the modern world of communications, and they have succeeded in doing that through a transition to electronic technologies while maintaining the traditional quality of printed Government documents.

I want to commend GPO's employees for their hard work and dedication to their jobs, which includes making this body run in a sound and effective manner. Without GPO, the nearly instantaneous transmission and publication of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and other vital documents could not be relied upon in an institution where swift access to information is crucial.

The amendment approved last week is not the result of any careful study or performance review. Rather, it is one of those across-the-board types of reductions we have seen offered by the majority party for a number of years to make more difficult the delivery of taxpayer-paid Government services.

Mr. Speaker, GPO has taken steps to keep up with the ever-changing nature of the information age and has done so in a cost-effective way. It should be given the necessary discretion to continue to implement needed management changes, including a reduction in unnecessary or duplicative employee positions as they occur, without interference by those who would rather enact arbitrary and across-the-board cuts. I commend the dedicated work of our GPO employees, and believe my colleagues would do the same when they come to know of the fine service they deliver.

DISASTER INSURANCE BILL

HON. BILL MCCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, it seems that virtually everyone in America is going to see a movie about the threat of aliens destroying our country. The real threat this summer is the destructive force of another major hurricane, like the one bearing down on the coast of North Carolina as we speak.

Hurricane Bertha has already taken lives and caused millions in property damage in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The threat caused by these destructive natural disasters is all too real. We face it every year and will continue to experience growing loss of life and property until we try to confront the destructive forces in a better way.

Mr. Speaker, I have a great interest in legislation that my good friend, Mr. Emerson, has introduced to reduce the impact of such catastrophic disasters. Mr. Emerson was aware that we at the Federal level need to encourage high risk areas of our country to better prepare for such events. Homeowners and businesses in States like Florida need more reliable disaster insurance protection. I would like to put the following article that appeared in today's Wall Street Journal in the RECORD. This article describes the insurance crisis that is occurring in my home State of Florida.

Currently, legislation to address these problems is under consideration in the House Transportation Committee in the form of H.R. 2873, the Natural Disaster Protection Act. I urge my colleagues to support committee action on this critical issue during the 104th Congress.

I am pleased to note that the Transportation Committee has been engaged in the process of revising the bill to address concerns raised in the hearing process, and the Senate has undertaken a similar effort.

Although this legislation certainly will not completely solve this problem of disaster insurance and will not eliminate the Federal burden relief, I believe it is a good first up on which to build future efforts. My State is taking actions on its own which will complement the programs in the proposed Federal bill and I understand that the insurance industry is examining other private sector options to increase insurance availability in high risk areas like Florida.

I would like to compliment the work of Chairman SHUSTER and his staff. We must support their efforts to report a revised bill out of committee as soon as possible. Mr. Speaker, for Congress to wait until the next major disaster to act on this issue would be a tragedy.

[From the Wall Street Journal, July 12, 1996]

FLORIDA HOMEOWNERS FIND INSURANCE
PRICEY, IF THEY FIND IT AT ALL

(By Leslie Scism and Martha Brannigan)

The swath of South Florida devastated four years ago by Hurricane Andrew is in far

better shape these days. But the state's insurance industry, devastated by the same storm and wary of another direct hit, is still a disaster.

Florida's homeowner-insurance business is like none other in the country: Rates, once absurdly cheap, have more than doubled in many coastal areas since Andrew, with double-digit annual increases likely in the future. Some big companies are so anxious to shed high-risk customers that they are openly touting the merits of their smaller competitors and even paying them bounties. Meanwhile, the state now operates an underwriting agency that, though it has rapidly become Florida's second-largest home insurer, is thought by many to be underfunded and incapable of handling a major disaster.

All of this comes at a time when the Atlantic is churning forth bigger hurricanes, more frequently, than at any time in decades. Last year's hurricane season was the busiest since 1933, and the march of Hurricane Bertha toward the East Coast today reminds Floridians that they are just one storm away from a disaster that could leave them homeless and underinsured.

FLIRTING WITH DISASTER

"Insurance companies and buyers have not yet fully come to terms with the new reality of megacatastrophes in the 1990s, and nowhere in the U.S. is this issue seen more dramatically than in Florida," says Sean Moonney, an economist with the Insurance Information Institute, a trade group.

This was inconceivable in the boom years of the 1980s. Hurricanes were rare, and those that hit the mainland tended to stay far from the state's two most densely populated coastal zones, the stretch from Miami to Palm Beach and the St. Petersburg-Tampa area. The insurance firms were relying on primitive models that didn't anticipate multibillion-dollar losses. The companies competed ferociously to insure the thousands of homes being built every year in the nation's third-fastest growing state.

Then came Aug. 24, 1992. Hurricane Andrew swept through south Dade County, about a dozen miles from downtown Miami. It was the most expensive natural disaster in U.S. history, causing about \$16 billion in insured losses—more than half of that incurred by homeowners.

BILLION-DOLLAR LOSSES

Insurance firms took a huge hit. According to the state, 10 companies, most of them small, went broke from storm-related losses. Others also felt Andrew's punch. State Farm Group, which held policies on more the 30% of Florida's insured homes, sustained \$3 billion in losses.

Some agencies couldn't make it. Scott Johnson, executive vice president of the Florida Association of Insurance Agents, says that since the storm, nearly 100 members of the group went out of business, reducing its ranks to 1,155 members. Many other agencies that weren't members also failed.

Meanwhile, the companies that stayed in Florida immediately sought to reduce their market share, especially in risky coastal areas. They dropped old customers and refused to insure new ones. One company, Prudential Insurance Co. of America, even paid many of its own policyholders a year's worth of premiums to take their business elsewhere. The cost to Prudential: about \$15 million.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

SECOND-BIGGEST INSURER

Most of those Prudential customers wound up with the new Florida Residential Property and Casualty Joint Underwriting Association, widely known as the JUA. It was intended to be the insurer of last resort. Instead, it has grown to nearly 900,000 homeowners, just 100,000 policies shy of State Farm, Florida's biggest home insurer.

The JUA now covers 18% of residences in Florida. In the densely populated, hurricane-prone southern part of the state, it covers an even higher percentage of homes, giving it a potential exposure of more than \$4 billion for a storm of the intensity of Andrew. "If the JUA were a regular insurance company, it would be fatally overconcentrated" because of its exposure in southeast Florida, says Sam Miller, vice president of the Florida Insurance Council, an industry trade group.

As the JUA has grown, so have the questions of its ability to make good on claims after a big hurricane. The JUA is exempt from the rules that require private-sector insurers to have thick financial cushions. Instead, the JUA got up and running on a hand-to-mouth basis: The premiums it collects—now running about \$400 million a year—almost immediately go out the door to pay routine claims. Little of it lies around long enough to earn much investment income—a big source of capital for established insurers.

The JUA can borrow money to pay claimants. The state would then repay those debts by assessing, perhaps for years, policyholders of all companies in Florida, including the JUA. Immediately after a devastating storm, policyholders could probably count on a 35% premium jump to pay off those debts, with follow-up annual increases of 20% or more, experts say.

A big problem has been the issue of raising huge sums of short notice. Last fall, the JUA secure a \$1.5 billion line of credit through a consortium of banks led by J.P. Morgan & Co. "The JUA's math is that, even with a [storm] hitting an area of greatest vulnerability, they would not go" substantially above \$1.5 billion in claims, says state Insurance Commissioner Bill Nelson.

But many in Florida doubt such assurances. As bad as Hurricane Andrew was, if it had taken a small turn northward toward the more densely populated areas of downtown Miami or Fort Lauderdale, the damages would have been far greater.

Should the state exhaust its line of credit, it then would have to turn to the bond market—an expensive and time-consuming proposition. "If you've got roofs flying off houses, it will seem like forever" for the JUA to float bonds, says John Auer, a vice president with Bankers Insurance Group in St. Petersburg, a midsize insurer of Florida homes.

SELLING THE BONDS

More alarming, the state could have problems finding buyers for the bonds—especially given that, after a terrible storm, two other Florida catastrophe-insurance agencies would likely be seeking investors at the same time, also with the promise that repayment would come from assessments on policyholders. "There haven't been bond issues of this size done in these circumstances," says James Newman Jr., the JUA's executive director.

Faced with its huge responsibility, the state has tried several approaches. It has funded projects aimed at reducing hurricane damage with stronger shutters, windows and doors. It also has stopped companies from dropping clients en masse, and it has slashed some proposed rate increases.

Now, the state is trying to reduce its role in the underwriting business. Even there,

though, officials are running into problems. The legislature in May approved creation of "special purpose" insurance companies to take over policies otherwise destined for the JUA. As an incentive, these companies would be exempt from the assessments that the JUA would make to cover shortfalls arising from a major storm. But J.P. Morgan objected. So Mr. Nelson promised last week that he would authorize no such "special purpose" companies, eliminating one of the approaches the state devised to trim the JUA.

Under another program, more than a dozen existing companies have committed to taking JUA policyholders; one such company is a unit of American International Group Inc., a leading insurer of businesses and one of the industry's most profitable firms. Many of those heeding Mr. Nelson's call are smaller players, including Bankers Insurance. Mr. Auer, the Bankers' vice president, says his company was lured partly by the prospect of picking through the policyholder base, an opportunity it used to identify homes located farther from the coastlines. Companies that take customers from the JUA are exempt from the JUA assessments on those policies for up to three years. (Each policyholder also comes with a bounty of as much as \$100 from the state.)

Many homeowners who have had to resort to the JUA for coverage feel powerless. The policies don't cover many items that private insurers will, such as jewelry and silverware. More important, homeowners have fears about the financial status of the JUA.

Jay Esche owns a two-bedroom, two-bath frame home in West Palm Beach that was virtually untouched by Hurricane Andrew. He says he has shopped widely for coverage outside the JUA but to no avail.

Mr. Esche says he dropped Allstate Corp. when the company said in 1993 it would more than double his premium, which had been about \$250 a year in 1992.

Initially, the JUA provided him with coverage for approximately \$400 a year in 1993, but that soared to about \$800 this year. Moreover, the JUA agreed to renew him for only six months this past April, as it seeks to move policyholders to private companies.

Mr. Esche says he is leery of the JUA. He believes the state would stand behind the policy, but that it would take a painfully long time to collect. "I can't understand why companies aren't writing new policies," he says.

Many JUA policyholders, like Mr. Esche, are concerned about being selected by a private carrier. The JUA rates are often lower than those in the private market. Moreover, if a company offers to take over coverage from the JUA, homeowners have to accept the new company, whether or not they like the terms or the company's financial status—or try their luck in the tight insurance market.

Florida bankers are also concerned. Barnett Banks Inc. in Jacksonville has about \$11 billion in home mortgages outstanding in the state. Rich Brewer, Barnett's chief credit policy officer, says he believes the JUA can handle one storm, but "I tend to believe the JUA doesn't have the ability to handle storms in consecutive years or two storms in one year."

Most businesses must rely on private insurers, often with expensive results. Stephen J. Stevens owns Hamilton's Restaurant, a beachfront eatery with \$4 million in annual sales on Panama City Beach, in the Panhandle. In 1994, the premium on his policy from Aetna Life & Casualty Co. for overall coverage was \$32,000. That grew to \$49,000 in 1995. Then last October, Hurricane Opal hit; Mr. Stevens's business sustained some \$500,000 in damages and was closed 10 days.

His losses were insured, but his costs have soared again. The premium this year is \$79,000; moreover, Aetna has raised his deductible and dropped some parts of its coverage.

ALLSTATE'S ROLE

Few insurers have worked as hard as Allstate to reduce its Florida exposure. Andrew, which left Allstate with a stunning \$2.5 billion in losses, hit just as the insurer was being spun off from its founder, Sears, Roebuck & Co. Unlike closely held insurance companies, or those like State Farm that are owned by their policyholders, Allstate is publicly traded, so reducing investors' fears about the company's volatility became a top goal.

Allstate pursued a hot growth strategy in Florida during the 1980s, and now it has been among the most aggressive in dropping customers as their policies come up for renewal, to the limits allowed under Florida law. In fact, Allstate's actions in the days after Andrew helped get the law passed. At that time, the insurer told Florida regulators it intended to drop 300,000 homeowners out of its more than 1.1 million policyholders. That generated fierce criticism and even jokes on national television. One comedian mocked the insurer's concept of being "in good hands" by dropping an egg to the floor.

Allstate has canceled about 90,000 Florida policies since Andrew, and it has lost tens of thousands more through attrition. It also has pursued stiff price increases, higher deductibles and capping of payments under replacement-cost clauses. Last month, it announced a far-reaching package that it said put it close to its goal of reducing its exposure in Florida to no more than about \$1 billion per hurricane. The day the moves were announced, the stock price surged 6.4%.

Specifically, Allstate has agreed to pay midsize insurer, Clarendon Insurance Group, to acquire 137,000 policies. Analysts estimate that Allstate is paying \$250 a policy, or about \$34.3 million. Almost anywhere else, Clarendon would be paying Allstate to acquire the business.

Allstate also wants to separately create a wholly owned, Florida-only property-insurance business. The idea is that, by isolating that business and giving it its own clearly stated set of financials, it could better persuade state regulators to allow rate increases; when the unit's operations are blended with highly profitable ones elsewhere, it is harder to argue for increases, the thinking goes.

Allstate Chairman Jerry Choate concedes the moves will anger some policyholders, but says they are necessary. "We got into a situation that was not a responsible one because of the concentration of risk," he says. And he speaks highly of Clarendon: "The fact that we found a very good company to come in is something they should feel good about."

Florida isn't alone in struggling to make insurance available and affordable. In California, regulators have pushed hard during the past year to create a state-run agency that would sell earthquake policies, as insurers there balk at providing the coverage. Californians likewise are experiencing stiffer terms, including higher prices and increased deductibles. And people in both states are pushing in Congress for the passage of legislation creating a federal disaster insurance fund that would assume liabilities after private insurers paid up to a certain cap on a catastrophic event.

But it is in Florida where the issues are most clearly drawn—something clear to Insurance Commissioner Nelson. "Can the JUA handle a disaster? That's a question I ask all

the time," Mr. Nelson says. He believes the answer is yes, but adds that when hurricane season starts each June, "I become very religious."

TRIBUTE TO STANLEY DROSKOSKI

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of Long Island's great police chiefs. After 32 years of service to the Southold Police Department, Police Chief Stanley Droskoski retired in May. At the age of 63, Chief Droskoski has spent the last three decades serving his neighbors and his town with unwavering dedication and pride.

A graduate of Greenport High School, Chief Droskoski grew up on his family's farm in Orient. In 1964, he took the police examination and became a patrolman on the town force. Mr. Droskoski rose through the ranks from patrolman, to detective, to sergeant, and then lieutenant before taking over the department's top office in 1991.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Chief Droskoski for his dedication to public safety.

SYMBOLIC WAR AGAINST DRUGS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the much publicized Clinton administration cancellation of the U.S. entry visa for President Ernesto Samper of Colombia, because of his campaign's link with drug trafficking moneys, is a symbolic public gesture in the battle against illicit drugs.

However, while it is a welcome message against those who deal with or are influenced by the drug traffickers, the actions critically needed from this administration in the war on drugs, are much more important than merely revoking one visa.

Meanwhile, in our fight against the drug traffickers and their guerrilla allies in the most important drug producing nation in the world, Colombia, and other producing or transit nations around the globe, this administration has to do much more.

Illicit drugs have cost our society billions of dollars each and every year in crime, violence, incarceration, health care, lost productivity, and lost lives, especially our young people.

Revoking one visa in a nation like Colombia, is tantamount to providing a cup of water to fight a raging fire, when the local fire department has no equipment.

We must also provide the dedicated and courageous men and women of the Colombian national police, who have suffered more than 3,000 casualties in their real war, the equipment and supplies they need. We must aid them in waging the true battle against the traffickers, and their guerrilla supporters on the ground, who protect and support the cocaine labs and the air strips for processing and mov-

ing this poison eventually north to our cities, streets, and schools.

The differences between these guerrillas and the drug traffickers they protect, is difficult to distinguish. While the Colombian national police have taken down the Cali cartel leadership and killed many of its key figures, it has not been cost free. They have lost many men, planes, and helicopters shot down in the deadly struggle, while our State Department bureaucracy has acted like this was just another foreign aid account service, if and when, it suits them.

Only when we treat this struggle like the real war that it is, and we provide those willing to fight the battle with us, the tools to do the job, can the United States be seen as serious by taking the fight to the traffickers in this deadly struggle. It is in our national interest to fight this struggle abroad, before this corrosive poison reaches our shores and costs much more of our Nation's treasure, and the lives of so many of our people, especially our youth.

We in the Congress have had to push very hard for many months in order to get six replacement helicopters for Colombia for those shot down or crashed in battles with the traffickers or the use of the highly professional Colombian National Police.

These much needed excess U.S. Army Vietnam era helicopters, which our own military no longer needs, and older than many of the Colombia police pilots who fly them, are vital tools in the struggle against the narco-guerrillas.

While the six Hueys finally arrived in early June, although late for the guerrillas' annual spring offensive, they were promptly, effectively used in seizing large quantities of narcotics, and medevacing out the wounded from the battlefield in this deadly struggle being waged in Colombia today.

The Clinton administration has rolled back the source and transit resources efforts in favor of attempting to win a war by treating the wounded here at home. Supplying nearly \$3 billion dollars annually for drug treatment programs in many cases, which at best produces limited results, while neglecting the source and transit nations, is a prescription for failure.

Just a little of that \$3 billion from treatment moneys properly placed in key nations like Colombia, will help drive drug prices up and purity levels down, as was the case in the Reagan/Bush eras where waging a real—not symbolic—war, reduced monthly cocaine use by nearly 80 percent, from 5.5 million users down to 1.3 million users each month. It is doubtful that all those treatment moneys will produce anywhere near that almost 80 percent success rate.

With the soaring drug use we are once again witnessing here at home, especially among the young, and our newest drug czar, having already abandoned the analogy of "a drug war", focusing primarily instead on the drug users and treating the wounded, we need more effective action. A real war must be waged against drugs, or we will face another lost generation to the evils of illicit narcotics.

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT AMENDMENTS

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer alternative legislation with the ranking minority member of the Resources Committee, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, and Mr. BILL RICHARDSON of New Mexico, to the Indian Child Welfare Act [ICWA]. In May of this year, the House narrowly passed H.R. 3286, which contained amendments to the ICWA. Tribal representatives opposed title III of that bill and have worked with Congresswoman PRYCE to reach an agreement on alternative legislation to ICWA. I want to thank Congresswoman PRYCE for her efforts to reach a compromise on ICWA. I want to also thank all the tribes for their efforts and important input on legislation which has an affect on Indian families and Alaska Native and American Indian children.

After the May vote, tribal representatives met in Tulsa, OK, to reach a consensus to address the concerns expressed by the authors of title III of H.R. 3286. This legislation provides for notice to tribes for voluntary adoptions, terminations of parental rights, and foster care proceedings. It provides for time lines for tribal intervention in voluntary cases and provides criminal sanctions to discourage fraudulent practices in Indian adoptions. Additionally, it clarifies the limits on withdrawal of parental consent to adoptions. The proposal provides for open adoptions in States where State law prohibits them and clarifies tribal courts authority to declare children wards of the tribal court. In addition, it states that attorneys and public and private agencies have a duty to inform Indian parents of their rights under ICWA, and provides for tribal membership certification in adoptions. These reforms resolve the ambiguities in current law which resulted in needless litigation, and have disrupted Indian adoption placements without reducing this country's commitment to protect native American families and promote the best interest of native children.

Mr. Speaker, all of the provisions contained in this bill have been tentatively embraced by the Department of Justice, the Department of the Interior, Jane Gorman, the attorney for the Rost family, and the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, the proponents of title III of H.R. 3286. I know that they and others are sincere in their concern about litigation which has delayed a few adoptions. But ICWA is not the problem. The Rost case is a sad and tragic case. But it was caused by an attorney who tried to cover up the natural parent's tribal membership and purposefully avoided checking with the grandparents and extended family of the children to see if the family was available to adopt these children. The sad part is that this attorney did not violate the law, but he inflicted untold sorrow on the Rosts, the grandparents of the children, and ultimately on the children themselves. This proposed legislation will impose criminal sanctions on attorneys who violate ICWA requirements in the adoption of a native child. In closing, I believe we have acceptable legislation which will protect the interests of adoptive parents, native extended families, and most importantly, Alaska Native and American Indian children.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MOLLIE BEATTIE, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE DIRECTOR

HON. PETER G. TORKILDSEN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. TORKILDSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember Mollie Beattie, the first woman ever to serve as Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She died on June 27, 1996. With her passing this Nation lost an important advocate for the environment, for wildlife, and for professionalism in advocating for both.

Mollie and I worked closely on issues like the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act. She was a true professional who often reached across party lines in order to achieve common goals of protecting our environment.

She strongly believed in her work and brought compassion and honesty to a government which can be seen as bureaucratic and removed from many Americans. Mollie listened to the concerns of my constituents and offered her assistance in many of the issues effecting the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge in my district.

Secretary Babbitt, when announcing Mollie's appointment as the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated, "Mollie brings experience, commitment, and energy to the Fish and Wildlife Service. She is certain to provide the strong leadership we need to conserve our fish and wildlife resources for present and future generations." As Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mollie did all that and much more.

We will all miss Mollie Beattie and the work she did. We know the world is a better place because of her life.

CLARIFICATION OF THE 1990 CLEAN AIR ACT AMENDMENTS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation today to clarify that the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments do not require pollution controls for beverage alcohol compounds emitted from aging warehouses.

To meet the strictures of the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act, installation of pollution controls may be required for beverage alcohol, ethanol, emissions from distilled spirits aging warehouses despite the facts that the EPA recognized that such controls could adversely effect product quality and that ethanol emissions do not contribute significantly to ozone formation.

The aging process is a natural process by which distilled spirits products derive their inherent characteristics, including color, taste, and aroma. Altering this aging process by imposing emission control technology on aging warehouses could inflict an unreasonable adverse effect on the maturation process for these products and thereby jeopardize the desired quality and uniqueness of each distilled spirits brand.

Imposition of Clean Air Act emissions controls on aging warehouses would create sig-

nificant costs on both the industry and the Government. First, for the industry, distillers would risk jeopardizing the quality of their products by installing pollution control technology of uncertain effect on aging warehouses.

Second, for the Government, tax revenue would be threatened by any action which significantly impacts product quality and thereby product sales. Distilled spirits are the highest taxed consumer product in the United States and a major source of revenue for Federal, State, and local governments.

Since December 1992, the industry has tried time and time again to get a definitive answer from either the EPA or the State governments involved on the question of whether such controls are required by the 1990 amendments. While both the Indiana and Kentucky general assemblies have passed resolutions urging EPA not to regulate beverage alcohol compounds emitted from aging warehouses, EPA has still not provided a definitive response.

The change I am proposing is only for those emissions coming from aging warehouses and does not exclude any other portions of the distilled spirits production process from Clean Air Act requirements.

H.R. 248, THE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ACT

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, the recent passage by the House of H.R. 248, the Traumatic Brain Injury Act, gives me occasion to recognize several individuals in Orange County, CA, who have dedicated their lives to raising awareness and improving our understanding and treatment of traumatic brain injury.

Prior to the redistricting that took place prior to the 1992 elections, it was my pleasure and honor to be able to directly represent the citizens of Huntington Beach, CA, in the U.S. Congress. It was back then that I first met Mike Lee, a resident of Huntington Beach who suffered severe head injuries in 1991 in a tragic bicycle accident.

Both before and after the accident, Mike has lived life to the fullest. In the 1980's, he co-founded a \$10 million roofing business. He's a certified life insurance agent. And from 1961 to 1971, he worked for Rockwell, the prime contractor for the Apollo Space Program. He served as pad leader for three of the Apollo moonshots—the first Earth orbital Apollo flight, Apollo 7, a lunar orbital, Apollo 9, and the first lunar landing, Apollo 11.

While the 1991 accident caused severe brain damage, greatly reducing cognitive ability and affecting short-term memory, Mike has made tremendous strides in his own recovery program to overcome his injury, and his never-give-up spirit for life has been an inspiration to the many people he's come into contact with since his accident. He's also done much to heighten public awareness and understanding throughout Orange County of traumatic brain injury.

One of the organizations that's been of help to Mike, and many others with severe brain in-

juries, is the nonprofit National Cognitive Recovery Foundation, which is headquartered in Irvine, CA, and on whose honorary board of advisors I am pleased to serve. Thanks to the active leadership of Dr. Dan Levinson, the foundation has garnered national attention for its role in helping to establish programs across the country to provide low-cost and effective cognitive rehabilitation, retraining, and special education for brain-injured adults.

Hundreds of persons have been helped through the foundation's community college rehabilitation courses. Coastline Community College in Costa Mesa, CA, was the first such institution to offer classes to re-educate and assist in the recovery of persons with brain injuries. Today, three community colleges in southern California offer the same innovative program, and the National Cognitive Recovery Foundation plans to expand this program to colleges nationwide. Thanks to support from charitable and private sources, Coastline is able to offer its program at an approximate cost of \$50 per semester; other brain injury rehabilitation programs offered in other parts of the country can cost a person up to \$15,000 per year.

The Traumatic Brain Injury Act approved by the House last week is aimed at promoting precisely these kinds of creative and worthwhile programs. This legislation will authorize the National Institute of Health to conduct research into the prevention and treatment of traumatic brain injury. It will also authorize grants to groups like the National Cognitive Recovery Foundation for innovative demonstration programs that can help improve access to rehabilitation, health care, and other service for persons suffering from severe brain injuries.

Mr. Speaker, now that the House has approved the Traumatic Brain Injury Act, I urge my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to act swiftly on this legislation. I ask them to keep in mind the daily struggles and challenges faced by Mike Lee and the thousands of other Americans with severe brain injuries. This legislation will do much to further progress in improving our understanding of traumatic brain injuries, in reducing the incidence of head injuries through public awareness and prevention efforts, and in promoting the development of effective, low-cost rehabilitation and treatment programs.

MAKING CONGRESS MORE USER FRIENDLY

HON. RICK WHITE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. WHITE. Mr. Speaker, over the course of the past 18 months, I have been proud to support the reforms that we have made to change the way our Government, especially this institution, works. I supported applying all laws to Congress because we need to live under the same laws as everyone else. I supported efforts to cut committees and committee staff because I felt that Congress had grown too large. And, I supported the efforts to reduce the amount of money Congress spends on itself because we need to lead by example as we work to balance the budget.

But, Mr. Speaker, there is still more that this Congress needs to do in order to improve the way this institution works.

Today, thanks to the leadership of Congressman DAVID DREIER, the House task force on committee review has developed a plan to make improvements to the way our committee system works. For the past year we have studied what changes need to be made in order to streamline and improve the committee process.

As a member of that task force, I focused on developing the proposal that will get the House wired for the 21st century. Today, I am introducing a resolution that changes the House rules so committee documents will be available over the Internet.

It's time to make Congress a little more user friendly. As more and more people go to the net to get information, we need to make it as easy as possible for our constituents to find out what Congress is doing.

We've been doing things the same way for over 40 years and last year this new Congress finally realized that a new approach was needed. The committee reforms that have been proposed will help in our continued efforts to change the way Congress is run.

This proposal will amend the rules governing House committees to help make the attached committee documents available electronically to the public by January 3, 1997. In addition, the resolution calls for the establishment of a central electronic data base for official documents and the implementation of standards that provide guidance to committees to help make information public.

Rule changes are needed because most bills and reports are printed on paper and filed manually with the Clerk of the House. In many instances, this prohibits people from having the chance to look at the bill before it is voted on in committee. Under this resolution, we can help improve public access to Congress by putting more information on the Internet.

Getting Congress on-line has been, and will continue to be, an on-going project. Through this resolution and the educational efforts of the Internet Caucus, we are going to keep the pressure on to make sure that Congress finds its way through cyberspace.

TRIBUTE TO LYNETTE WIGINGTON

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Lynette Wigington, a resident from Mattituck, NY, on winning first place in the long jump at the prestigious Penn Relays that took place on April 26, 1996. Lynette Wigington, a 17-year-old senior from Mattituck High School, won with a jump of 19 feet and 5 inches. This mark was only 7 inches short of the 20 feet necessary to qualify for the Olympic Trials.

At the young age of 17, Lynette already has distinguished herself as a champion in track and field. In March, she won the National Indoor Scholastic Championships with a leap of 20 feet and 5 inches. Lynette's dedication to the sport was recently tested, but she proved to her community that she is a true contender. After the Penn Relays, Lynette sustained a painful hamstring injury that should have stopped her. But, Lynette is virtually unstoppable. In spite of her injury, she will be

competing in the National Outdoor Junior Track and Field Championships in Ohio.

I would like to wish this fine athlete good luck in her future endeavors.

AN INNOVATOR, PHILANTHROPIST, HERO

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a special person—Alex Manoogian—who passed away last week. America has not only lost a kind benefactor and gentle heart, it has lost a talented inventor and a perfect model of the American dream.

A penniless Armenian immigrant who came to America in 1924, Manoogian was a business leader from the start. He founded the Masco Corp. in 1926 producing parts for the auto industry. In the 1950's, Manoogian revolutionized the plumbing fixture industry with his innovations—particularly the renowned Delta faucet.

While his wealth exploded with each success, Manoogian never forgot the less fortunate and his Armenian people. Manoogian donated more than \$90 million to charity and education in his lifetime. His enduring gift to Detroit is the Manoogian mansion, the official mayoral residence, which he donated to the city in 1966.

He was a father figure to metro Detroit's 40,000-strong Armenian-American community and has served as an example to Armenians throughout the world. He served as international president of the Armenian General Benevolent Union for 36 years. For his hard work, leadership, and generosity, the Armenian Government recently awarded Manoogian its National Hero Medal.

His name has been bestowed on numerous buildings at local universities and his endowments have helped create an Armenian studies program at the University of Michigan. He also has a senior citizen home named for him in my district in Livonia.

It was an honor to know such a great man. He was a generous man with a kind heart. He was truly an example of the American dream. He fled chaos and tyranny in post-World War I Turkey, immigrated to America, and pursued his dream. He succeeded and never forgot his heritage.

Alex Manoogian was a good friend to all he knew and those he didn't know, but could help. He will be missed but his legacy and spirit will remain ingrained in our souls forever.

DEPARTURE OF LINCOLN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT WENDELL RAYBURN

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Wendell Rayburn, president of Lincoln University, who will be leaving after 80½ years of service. A leader in education in our State, President Rayburn has also been active

in the community of Jefferson City. His most important achievement has been his commitment to greater stress on scholarship and academics. President Rayburn successfully led Lincoln University from its budget deficit and put it on a solid fiscal basis.

Further, his leadership led to new construction and higher level of maintenance. Dormitories were renovated and a new library was completed. Also he introduced new technology into the classroom. Wendell Rayburn's leadership and commitment to excellence will be missed.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3755) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.:

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in opposition to the Lowey amendment to cut rural health care and increase funding for what amounts to gun control advocacy by the Centers for Disease Control. I have two objections to the amendment.

First, the amendment would cut \$2.6 million from area health education centers. These funds help train medical personnel for rural areas and small communities which do not have adequate health care. It is hard for many small communities to attract doctors and nurses, and I oppose this amendment to reduce support for rural health care.

Second, I strongly object to increasing funding for the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. I am concerned about reports that NCIPC research into firearms injuries has been compromised by political advocacy for gun control. For example, NCIPC paid for a newsletter urging recipients to "put gun control on the agenda of your civic or professional organization * * * or organize a picket at gun manufacturing sites." It is inappropriate for any federally funded scientific research program to engage in even the appearance of political activity. Such activity compromises the credibility of all scientific research.

I support language in this bill that states "None of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control."

The right of self-defense is an important right and is frequently used. Guns are used for defensive purposes more than a million times each year, not even counting their use by police. If government does not protect you and your property from crime, you should not be deprived of the opportunity to protect yourself.

With respect to the constitutional arguments about gun control, I think that the Founding

Fathers supported the right to bear arms by everyone, not just by the militia, in order to help secure the good order of the community. Private gun ownership is an important right that should be preserved.

I urge my colleagues to defeat the Lowey amendment, which would take funding away from important rural health care programs to fund a program that has engaged in unneeded and inappropriate political advocacy.

TRIBUTE TO THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Smithsonian Institution, which will be honoring the contributions Hispanics have made in the arts and sciences, and their role in our Nation's history during a special evening at the New York Coliseum.

The event is among the many to commemorate the Institution's 150th anniversary, which includes the traveling exhibition, "America's Smithsonian," being viewed by millions of citizens of New York City and millions of their fellow Americans in 11 additional cities across the Nation.

Under the leadership of Smithsonian Institution Secretary J. Michael Heyman, the Institution has increased its efforts to bring the museum closer to Hispanics by reaching out to the community through traveling exhibitions, on-line home page, educational kits featuring Hispanic artists, musical recordings, and a variety of publications.

"America's Smithsonian," the 150th anniversary exhibition, represents the cultural contributions of all Americans, including Hispanic-Americans. The special evening at the exhibition in the New York Coliseum celebrates Hispanics by bringing together Hispanic curators, academics, corporate representatives, public affairs professionals, community leaders, elected officials, and members of Spanish-language media and the mainstream press.

From the earliest arrivals on our eastern shores to the established settlements in the West and the Southwest, the large Hispanic communities in the north and south, and the diverse Caribbean representations, all clearly demonstrate the role Hispanics have played in our country's earliest history and development to the present day. Hispanic music, literature, visual arts, customs, and way of living are very much a part of this Nation's culture.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Smithsonian Institution in its 150th anniversary celebration for its efforts to reach out to the Hispanic community by expanding its collections and exhibitions in its museums, and traveling exhibitions like "America's Smithsonian," which give an opportunity to the Nation's flagship museum to include Hispanic contributions to this Nation's culture in the arts, science, and history.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. LINDA SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3755) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, recently the House passed the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill for the 1997 fiscal year. Within this bill is funding for two key programs under the auspices of the Centers for Disease Control [CDC]. Specifically, the Chronic and Environmental Diseases Program and the Childhood Immunization Program—both of which have been essential to Washington State's ability to address public health crises.

In 1993, the State of Washington was the site of an E.coli 0157:H7 outbreak of epidemic proportions. Approximately 600 individuals displayed symptoms that were attributed to contact with contaminated meat. More than 150 people were hospitalized and, tragically, three died. This experience helped elevate the importance of food safety to a national level. The ability to identify foodborne diseases, educate the public, food handlers, and inspectors, and conduct thorough surveillance is dependent on a joint partnership between Federal and State officials. The work of Epidemic Intelligence Service [EIS] officers from the CDC has been invaluable in identifying foodborne diseases.

Recognizing the fiscal constraints that Congress has set for itself, I commend the committee for its decision to increase funding for the Chronic and Environmental Disease Prevention Program by almost \$12 million for the 1997 fiscal year, bringing the total up to \$155 million.

In addition, southwest Washington recently came through a measles outbreak that resulted in 37 cases over a 2½ month period. Twenty-four percent of the reported cases occurred among preschool children. While public health officials were exemplary in tracking down the level of exposure, this recent outbreak reinforces the need for a proactive approach to childhood immunization. Recognizing this, I commend my colleagues for their decision to level fund the Childhood Immunization Program at \$467 million.

While every item in the Federal budget should undergo scrutiny, these two programs are of tremendous benefit to the people of Washington State and the public officials who work on a daily basis to preserve and promote preventive health measures. I thank Chairman PORTER and his staff for their hard work on this bill and I commend my colleagues for joining me in ensuring this legislation's passage.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS POST 500

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Jewish War Veterans Post 500 of Co-op City in the Bronx is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. This is an organization of men who have given so much to their country in time of war and now give to their communities. They help their fellow veterans who are hospitalized in the nearby Veterans' Administration Hospital, bringing them newspapers to read and company for when the day gets long. They organize fund raising events to support their charitable works and march annually in the Memorial Day parade to honor the heroic sacrifices made by fellow veterans in all wars.

We owe our liberty to these men and all others like them. This year we also celebrate the centenary of the National Jewish War Veterans, making this a truly auspicious time. As a patron member of Post 500, I am proud and happy to join my neighbors in celebrating these anniversaries.

COMMEMORATING THE 41ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 41st Anniversary of the United States Air Force Academy—one of the pillars of military education, producing some of the Nation's finest officers to ever serve and protect the American people.

On April 1, 1954, President Eisenhower signed Public Law 325, the Air Academy Act. On June 24, Secretary of the Air Force Harold Talbott announced that Colorado Springs would be the permanent site of the U.S. Air Force Academy and Denver would serve as the temporary site. The U.S. Air Force Academy began in my district at Lowry Air Force Base, July 27, 1954, and proceeded to build in strength in order to receive its first class of cadets of July 11, 1955. This date marks the official dedication and opening of the U.S. Air Force Academy.

When Dedication Day arrived, 307 young men who would make up the Class of 1959 marched onto the field in precise formation amidst the tears of the gathered 4,159 military and civilian dignitaries, public officials, the foreign attaché corps, cadets from West Point and Annapolis, press, and parents. These cadets marched with pride to music played at the U.S. Air Force band, while proceeding underneath a glorious formation of B-36 bombers flying overhead.

After the ceremonies concluded, the Denver Chamber of Commerce hosted the guests at a down-home chuck wagon buffalo barbecue at the Red Rocks Park Amphitheater—a classic finish to a historic event.

As Coloradans, we are exuberant and proud that our State was selected as the location of the temporary and permanent sites of the U.S.

Air Force Academy. The United States is dually proud of the excellent leaders who have graduated from the Academy—both in the Air Force and civilian life.

On the anniversary of the historic opening of the Air Force Academy, we would also like to pay special tribute to those officers whose intelligence and forethought in the Academy's conception allowed for the enormous success that has been achieved by the institution during the past 40 years. These officers include Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon, the first Superintendent and Father of the U.S. Air Force Academy; Col. (later Brig. Gen.) Robert F. McDermott, Dean; Col. William B. Taylor III, Assistant Chief of Staff (Special Projects); and Col. Robert V. Whitlow, Directors of Athletics. Without these special men and others like them, the Academy would not be the foundation of excellence it is today.

A SALUTE TO DORETTA E.
OAKLEY

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Doretta E. Oakley on the occasion of her retirement from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

On July 22, 1996, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will proudly join with Ms. Doretta Oakley on the occasion of her retirement from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. Ms. Oakley has served the Department of Public Welfare for 23 years in many capacities. She began her tenure with the State in 1974, when she became a clerk typist. Since that time, Ms. Oakley made her way up from budget clerk to income maintenance case-

worker and now employment training program counselor, she did that through hard work, compassion, and commitment. She has worked tirelessly over the years to see that many people within the Pennsylvania community were able to make the transition from welfare-to-work. Her inspiration and commitment to the true spirit of the Family Support Act of 1988 will long be remembered. After her retirement, she plans to do charity work at the Upper Room Baptist Church where she is currently an active member.

I proudly join with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Ms. Oakley's family and friends in recognizing her for her many years of service with the Philadelphia County Assistance Office. Doretta, I wish you health, happiness, and prosperity in your retirement years. It is well deserved.